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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

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DATE: April 22, 1959

SUBJECT: Germany

APR 28 1959

PARTICIPANTS: M. Louis Joxe, Secretary General of French Ministry
of Foreign Affairs
M. Hervé Alphand, French Ambassador

Mr. Robert Murphy, Deputy Under Secretary
Mr. Matthew Looman, WE 4-A

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Sent 5/1/59 to Mr. Looman

Per: RA: Chandler

M. Joxe said that France and the United States were generally in agreement with regard to our position on Germany for the forthcoming Foreign Ministers' Conference. However, there were some points of detail, which were important, where we were not in agreement. On Berlin, the French Government felt most strongly that the U.N. should not be introduced in any form. Vinogradov had frequently mentioned to him the desirability of bringing the U.N. into the overall German issue, and he thought to comply with the Soviet desires in this connection would be most unfortunate. Joxe also thought it was undesirable to include numerical limitations on forces in stages II and III of the Western package. He thought it was far preferable to be vague on this point and to propose parallel talks on disarmament. The Secretary General also thought that our proposals should include reference to the arms limitations already incorporated in the Brussels Treaty with regard to Germany.

Mr. Murphy stated there were indications that Hammarskjold felt that the U.N. should play some role in connection with the German crisis. As to arms limitations, it seemed important from the point of view of world opinion to be specific. If we were vague, our proposals would have little impact. It was obvious in any case that our proposals would not be accepted by the Soviet Union.

Ambassador Alphand then raised the question of the French
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French

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Government's desire to be primarily responsible for briefing the Italian Government on the Foreign Ministers' Conference. Mr. Murphy agreed that this seemed reasonable and stated that this matter was now under consideration.

Mr. Murphy mentioned that a note had now been received from the Soviet Government protesting against the installation of nuclear depots in various countries in Europe and protesting against the installation of IRBM's in Italy. M. Joxe stated he understood that Western Germany had received a similar note. This confirmed previous indications, he said, that the Soviets were genuinely concerned about the potential threat of a rearmed Germany.

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